



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
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OXYTROPIS DEFLEXA* VAR *FOLIOLOSA
PENDENT POD CRAZYWEED

Pendent-pod Crazyweed is a perennial with leafless flowering stalks that are up to 15 cm high, and arising from a simple or branched rootcrown. The basal, pinnately compound leaves have 9-17 narrowly elliptic leaflets that are 3-25 mm long. Stipules are lance-shaped and 6-12 mm long. Foliage is sparsely covered with long, appressed hairs. 3-10 sessile, pea-like, blue flowers are clustered at the tip of the stem. The upper banner petal of each flower is ca. 1 cm long, bent forward, and barely longer than the lateral wing petals. The black-hairy calyx has 5 narrow lobes and is $\frac{2}{3}$ the length of the corolla. The nodding, tubular pods are 10-18 mm long, covered with appressed black hairs, and have a long indentation on the upper suture. Flowering and fruiting in August.

The pendulous pods separate *OXYTROPIS DEFLEXA* from other members of the genus. *O. DEFLEXA* VAR *SERICEA* has stem leaves, and a loose, elongate inflorescence often with more than 10 flowers in it.